

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/942,635

Examiner

Peter Choi

Applicant(s)

CARY ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendments filed 8/30/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 8-12 and 15-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 11/9/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
**TARIQ R. HAFIZ**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record is made below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Schmok on November 9, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of analyzing a data source that includes a plurality of household records, wherein the data source is determined to not be a subset of a reference file that includes a plurality of reference file records, said method comprising:

~~—determining that the data source is not a subset of a reference file, the reference file including a plurality of reference file records;~~

~~in response to determining that the data source is not a subset of the reference file, retrieving, from a nonvolatile storage area, a sample quantity of household records~~

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included in the data source, wherein the sample quantity of household records does not include all of the plurality of household records included in the data source;

comparing a name and address included in each of the sample quantity of household records to the plurality of reference file records, the comparing resulting in matched household records whose name and address are included in one or more of the sample quantity of household records and also included in one or more of the reference file records;

determining, based upon the matched household records, whether the data source is balanced, signifying that the matched household records represents the data source;

adjusting, based upon determining whether the data source is balanced, the sample quantity of household records such that, after performing again the comparing and the determining using the adjusted sample quantity of household records, the matched records corresponding to the adjusted sample quantity of household records is balanced and represents the data source;

generating a comparison master file based upon the adjusted sample quantity of household records, the comparison master file including a portion of the plurality of household records included in the data source;

analyzing, ~~in response to the analyzing~~, the comparison master file using the reference file;

selecting a data source vendor corresponding to the data source in response to the analyzing; and

providing the selection of the data source vendor to a user.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the generating further comprises:

determining a match proportion based on the adjusted sample quantity of household records and the matched household records corresponding to the adjusted sample quantity of household records;

calculating a new source file sample quantity by dividing the adjusted sample quantity of household records by the match proportion; and

matching the name and address of the household records included in the new source file sample quantity to the reference file records, the matching resulting in the comparison master file.

Claim 3. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

retrieving a rule corresponding to an element in the data source;

determining whether the element in the data source approximates a corresponding value in the reference file based on the retrieved rule; and

assigning match to the element in response to the determination.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

calculating a first bias value based upon matching one or more elements of household records included in the comparison master file to one or more elements included in the reference file records.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

calculating a second bias value based upon matching one or more elements of household records from a second data source to one or more of the reference file records; and

wherein the selecting includes comparing the first bias value to the second bias value.

Claim 6. (Canceled).

Claim 7. (Canceled).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:  
one or more processors;  
a memory accessible by the processors;  
one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors;  
a data source handling tool to manage a data source stored on one of the nonvolatile storage devices that includes a plurality of household records, wherein the

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data source is determined to not be a subset of a reference file that includes a plurality of reference file records, the data source handling tool including:

~~\_\_\_\_\_ means for determining that the data source is not a subset of a reference file, the reference file including a plurality of reference file records;~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ in response to determining that the data source is not a subset of the reference file,~~ means for retrieving, from a nonvolatile storage area, a sample quantity of household records included in the data source, wherein the sample quantity of household records does not include all of the plurality of household records included in the data source;

means for comparing a name and address included in each of the sample quantity of household records to the plurality of reference file records, the comparing resulting in matched household records whose name and address are included in one or more of the sample quantity of household records and also included in one or more of the reference file records;

means for determining, based upon the matched household records, whether the data source is balanced, signifying that the matched household records represents the data source;

means for adjusting, based upon determining whether the data source is balanced, the sample quantity of household records such that, after performing again the comparing and the determining using the adjusted sample quantity of household records, the matched records corresponding to the adjusted sample quantity of household records is balanced and represents the data source;

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means for generating a comparison master file based upon the adjusted sample quantity of household records, the comparison master file including a portion of the plurality of household records included in the data source;

means for analyzing, ~~in response to the analyzing~~, the comparison master file using the reference file;

means for selecting a data source vendor corresponding to the data source in response to the analyzing; and

means for providing the selection of the data source vendor to a user.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:

means for determining a match proportion based on the adjusted sample quantity of household records and the matched household records corresponding to the adjusted sample quantity of household records;

means for calculating a new source file sample quantity by dividing the adjusted sample quantity of household records by the match proportion; and

means for matching the name and address of the household records included in the new source file sample quantity to the reference file records, the matching resulting in the comparison master file.

Claim 10. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:

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means for retrieving a rule corresponding to an element in the data source;

means for determining whether the element in the data source approximates a corresponding value in the reference file based on the retrieved rule; and

means for assigning match to the element in response to the determination.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:

means for calculating a first bias value based upon matching one or more elements of household records included in the comparison master file to one or more elements included in the reference file records.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The information handling system as described in claim 11 further comprising:

means for calculating a second bias value based upon matching one or more elements of household records from a second data source to one or more of the reference file records; and

wherein the selecting includes comparing the first bias value to the second bias value.

Claim 13. (Canceled).

Claim 14. (Canceled).



Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer operable media, the computer operable media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method for selecting a data source vendor by analyzing a data source that includes a plurality of household records, wherein the data source is determined to not be a subset of a reference file that includes a plurality of reference file records, the method comprising:

~~—determining that the data source is not a subset of a reference file, the reference file including a plurality of reference file records;~~

~~in response to determining that the data source is not a subset of the reference file,~~ retrieving, from a nonvolatile storage area, a sample quantity of household records included in the data source, wherein the sample quantity of household records does not include all of the plurality of household records included in the data source;

comparing a name and address included in each of the sample quantity of household records to the plurality of reference file records, the comparing resulting in matched household records whose name and address are included in one or more of the sample quantity of household records and also included in one or more of the reference file records;

determining, based upon the matched household records, whether the data source is balanced, signifying that the matched household records represents the data source;

adjusting, based upon determining whether the data source is balanced, the sample quantity of household records such that, after performing again the comparing and the determining using the adjusted sample quantity of household records, the matched records corresponding to the adjusted sample quantity of household records is balanced and represents the data source;

generating a comparison master file based upon the adjusted sample quantity of household records, the comparison master file including a portion of the plurality of household records included in the data source;

analyzing, ~~in response to the analyzing~~, the comparison master file using the reference file;

selecting a data source vendor corresponding to the data source in response to the analyzing; and

providing the selection of the data source vendor to a user.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The computer program product described in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises:

determining a match proportion based on the adjusted sample quantity of household records and the matched household records corresponding to the adjusted sample quantity of household records;

calculating a new source file sample quantity by dividing the adjusted sample quantity of household records by the match proportion; and

matching the name and address of the household records included in the new source file sample quantity to the reference file records, the matching resulting in the comparison master file.

Claim 17. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises:

- retrieving a rule corresponding to an element in the data source;
- determining whether the element in the data source approximates a corresponding value in the reference file based on the retrieved rule; and
- assigning match to the element in response to the determination.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The computer program product described in claim 15 wherein the method further comprises:

- calculating a first bias value based upon matching one or more elements of household records included in the comparison master file to one or more elements included in the reference file records.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The computer program product described in claim 18 wherein the method further comprises:

- calculating a second bias value based upon matching one or more elements of household records from a second data source to one or more of the reference file records; and

wherein the selecting includes comparing the first bias value to the second bias value.

Claim 20. (Canceled).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 15-19 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior art, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1-5, 8-12, and 15-19.

Specifically, the invention set forth in claims 1-5, 8-12, and 15-19 is directed to a method, system and computer program product of analyzing a data source that includes a plurality of household records, wherein the data source is determined to not be a subset of a reference file that includes a plurality of reference file records, comprising the steps of:

retrieving, from a nonvolatile storage area, a sample quantity of household records included in the data source, wherein the sample quantity of household records does not include all of the plurality of household records included in the data source;

comparing a name and address included in each of the sample quantity of household records to the plurality of reference file records, the comparing resulting in matched household records whose name and address are included in one or more of the sample quantity of household records and also included in one or more of the reference file records;

determining, based upon the matched household records, whether the data source is balanced, signifying that the matched household records represents the data source;

adjusting, based upon determining whether the data source is balanced, the sample quantity of household records such that, after performing again the comparing and the determining using the adjusted sample quantity of household records, the matched records corresponding to the adjusted sample quantity of household records is balanced and represents the data source;

generating a comparison master file based upon the adjusted sample quantity of household records, the comparison master file including a portion of the plurality of household records included in the data source;

analyzing the comparison master file using the reference file;

selecting a data source vendor corresponding to the data source in response to the analyzing; and

providing the selection of the data source vendor to a user.

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4. The closest prior art on record, Rabianski, teaches the steps of analyzing a data source to a reference file, matching records from the data source to reference file records, and adjusting the data source. Rabianski does not teach the steps of determining whether a data source is not a subset of a reference file, retrieving a sample quantity of household records from the source data, determining whether a determining whether the data source is balanced, adjusting the sample quantity of records, generating and analyzing a comparison master file, and selecting a data source vendor in response to the analysis of the comparison master file. Rabianski also does not teach the matching of specific fields, as in the claimed invention (name and address).

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Grittiths (U.S Patent #5,956,724) teaches a method for compressing a data file using a separate dictionary file. A second file is sampled at predetermined locations, and a dictionary database is created. The first file is compared to the dictionary database to locate any matches that exist between the first file and the stored samples of the dictionary database.

Lamburt et al. (U.S Patent #6,374,21) teaches data merging techniques. A plurality of data records is parsed to seek matching phone numbers and zip codes.

Kabasakalian et al. (U.S Patent #6,745,211) teaches a method and system for verifying and correcting data records in a database. An unverified data record is compared with a reference data file record to identify a matching reference data record.

Kane et al. (U.S Patent #6,389,429) teaches a system and method for generating a target database from one or more source databases. To determine whether a given source database record represents the same audience member represented by a record of the target database, comparisons are made of various fields of the respective databases to identify the most closely-matching target database record.

Camarillo (U.S Patent #6,970,880) teaches a system and method for creating and maintaining data records to improve accuracy thereof. Equivalent records are

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identified by querying normalized data records. The fields in the normalized data records include phone numbers, and addresses.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272 6971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PC

November 9, 2006

  
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